

### **REMARKS**

Claims 1-5 were pending in this application prior to this amendment. Upon entry of this amendment, which is respectfully requested, claims 1 and 5 are amended. Thus, upon entry of this amendment, claims 1-5 remain pending.

No new matter is introduced by this amendment. Support for the amendments herein can be found throughout the application as originally filed.

### ***35 U.S.C. § 112***

The Office Action rejects claims 1-5 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, ¶ 2 as allegedly “indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctively claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.” Specifically, the Office Action alleges the term “game ongoing” in claims 1 and 5 lacks antecedent basis.

Applicants currently amend independent claims 1 and 5 to correct the alleged lack of antecedent basis.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-5 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, ¶ 2.

### ***35 U.S.C. § 102***

The Office Action rejects claim 5 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) under U.S. Patent Application Publication No. US 2005/0043089 of Nguyen et al.

Currently amended claim 5 provides a card game system that includes game apparatuses that are configured as either master or terminal apparatuses. The game apparatuses are further configured to receive game information from a player using a card. Progression of game play, *e.g.*, timing of different player turns, occurs within a “specific time” for a game ongoing, and is controlled by various devices of the master apparatus. In particular, the master apparatus includes a master reception device, a start determination device, a permission device, an elapse determination device, a rejection device, and a “device configured to execute game progress processes.”

With respect to the “specific time,” claim 5 recites, *inter alia*:

- “a start determination device configured to determine whether to start a **specific time during the ongoing game;**”

- “a permission device configured to make the master reception device reject to receive the game information at the master reception device until the start determination device determines to start **the specific time during the ongoing game;**” and
- “a device configured to execute game progress processes using the game information received **during the specific time during the ongoing game** from the game apparatuses including the master apparatus, so that the game information affects a result of the game ongoing.” (Emphasis added).

Thus, the player is allowed to use the card after the “specific time” starts (yet within the specific time period), in an ongoing game, in order to make the game information obtained from the card affect the game result.

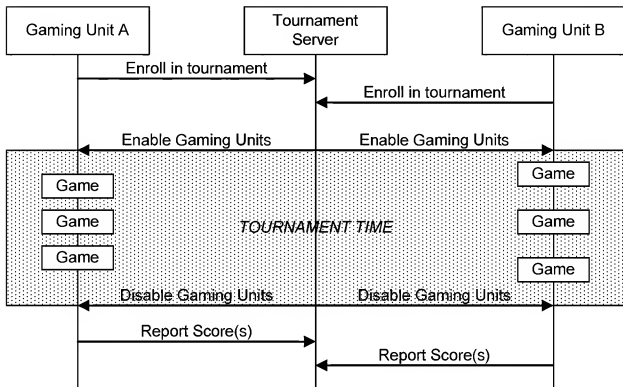
Applicants respectfully assert that Nguyen does not anticipate the claimed invention because Nguyen does not disclose a master apparatus including a master reception device that is controlled to (i) receive game information from a card used by a player when a start determination device determines to start a specific time during an ongoing game and (ii) reject reception when an elapse time determination device determines that a set time elapses during an ongoing game.

Nguyen operates in a fundamentally different manner from the claimed invention. Specifically, although the tournament server in Nguyen initiates tournament play, *i.e.*, tournament time, that defines temporal periods in which players can play in a tournament game, the tournament server in Nguyen does not receive any game information during an ongoing game as recited by Applicants. Instead, a proper reading of Nguyen makes clear that the games are played on individual gaming units without any interaction with the tournament server. As clearly seen, for example, in FIGS. 5, 11B, 12, 13, 15, 19, and 20, to the extent that the tournament server receives any information about games played on the individual gaming units, such information (*i.e.*, scores from the games) is only sent after the game concludes.

Using two gaming units or terminal apparatuses for ease of illustration, the following sequence diagrams depict the fundamental differences between the operation of Nguyen’s system and the claimed system.

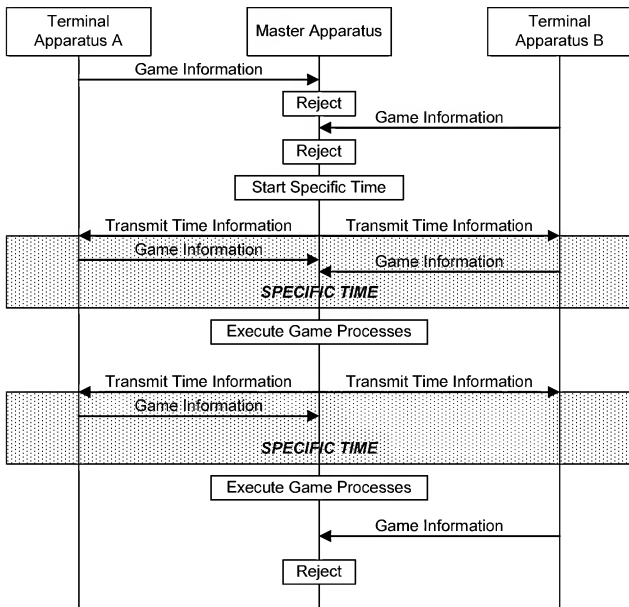
As is readily seen in the sequence diagram below, Nguyen does not contain any disclosure regarding the transmission of game information from the gaming units to the tournament server during the tournament time.

Nguyen



In contrast and as depicted below, the master apparatus receives game information during the specific time.

Claimed Invention



Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of the rejection of claim 5 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) Nguyen.

**35 U.S.C. § 103(a)**

The Office Action rejects claims 1-3 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over U.S. Patent Application Publication No. US 2005/0043089 A1 to Nguyen et al. (hereinafter “Nguyen”) in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. US 2005/0192089 to Blatter et al. (hereinafter “Blatter”).

Currently amended claim 1 provides a card game system that includes game apparatuses that are configured as either master or terminal apparatuses. The game apparatuses are further configured to receive game information from a player using a card. Progression of game play, *e.g.*, timing of different player turns, occurs within a “specific time” for a game ongoing, and is controlled by various devices of the master apparatus. In particular, the master apparatus includes a master reception device, a start determination device, a permission device, an elapse determination device, a rejection device, and a “device configured to execute game progress processes.”

With respect to the “specific time,” claim 1 recites, *inter alia*:

- “a start determination device configured to determine whether to start a **specific time during the game ongoing;**”
- “a permission device configured to make the master reception device reject to receive the game information at the master reception device until the start determination device determines to start **the specific time during the game ongoing;**” and
- “a device configured to execute game progress processes using the game information received **during the specific time during the game ongoing** from the game apparatuses including the master apparatus, so that the game information affects a result of the game ongoing.” (Emphasis added).

Thus, the player is allowed to use the card after the “specific time” starts (yet within the specific time period), in a game ongoing, in order to make the game information obtained from the card affect the game result.

As discussed above in the context of the anticipation rejection, Applicants respectfully assert that Nguyen does not anticipate the claimed invention because Nguyen does not disclose a master apparatus including a master reception device that

is controlled to (i) receive game information from a card used by a player when a start determination device determines to start a specific time during an ongoing game and (ii) reject reception when an elapse time determination device determines that a set time elapses during an ongoing game.

Nguyen operates in a fundamentally different manner from the claimed invention. Specifically, although the tournament server in Nguyen initiates tournament play, *i.e.*, tournament time, that defines temporal periods in which players can play in a tournament game, the tournament server in Nguyen does not receive any game information during an ongoing game as recited by Applicants. Instead, a proper reading of Nguyen makes clear that the games are played on individual gaming units without any interaction with the tournament server. As clearly seen, for example, in FIGS. 5, 11B, 12, 13, 15, 19, and 20, to the extent that the tournament server receives any information about games played on the individual gaming units, such information (*i.e.*, scores from the games) is only sent after the game concludes.

Blatter discloses a video game device that has a card reader that can be used to establish game play credits. *See* Abstract. The card reader can also be used as an input device, which, when provided a special control card, places the video game device into a special mode, *e.g.*, "Closest To The Pin" for a golf game. *See* ¶ [0045]. Blatter fails to disclose or suggest any "specific time" used to collect the game information from an aggregation of game apparatuses as recited in currently amended claim 1. Specifically, Blatter fails to teach or suggest a master reception device that is controlled to (i) receive game information from a card used by a player when a start determination device determines to start a specific time during an ongoing game and (ii) reject reception when an elapse time determination device determines that a set time elapses during an ongoing game.

Even if one assumes that that the "special mode" discussed in paragraphs [0014]-[0018] corresponds to the recited "specific time" of the claimed invention, the "special mode" in Blatter is started individually by each player instead of by a master apparatus as in currently amended independent claim 1.

Accordingly, the combination of Nguyen and Blatter fails to teach or suggest each and every element of currently amended independent claim 1 and, therefore, fails to form a prima facie case of obviousness.

Moreover, neither Nguyen nor Blatter, alone or in combination, produce the benefits achieved by the claimed invention. For example, by rejecting game information before and after the specific time “during the game ongoing” and executing game progress processes because on game information received during the specific time “during the game ongoing,” the claimed invention advantageously promotes a feeling amongst players that each player’s use of a card is simultaneous, even though there may, in fact, be a considerable variance in timing between each player’s use of a card. Neither Nguyen nor Blatter recognize this need, let alone provide a solution to the need.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-3 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Nguyen in view of Blatter.

The Office Action also rejects claim 4 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Nguyen in view of Blatter and U.S. Patent Application Publication No. US 2002/0020745 A1 to Yap et al. (hereinafter “Yap”). Claim 4 depends from claim 1.

As discussed above in the context of claim 1, Nguyen and Blatter, either individually or in combination, fail to teach or suggest a master reception device that is controlled to (i) receive game information from a card used by a player when a start determination device determines to start a specific time during an ongoing game and (ii) reject reception when an elapse time determination device determines that a set time elapses during an ongoing game as recited in currently amended independent claim 1.

Yap, which discloses the use of multiple smartcards, fails to cure either of these defects.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of the rejection of claim 4 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Nguyen in view of Blatter and Yap.

***Conclusion***

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants believe the pending application is in condition for allowance. If a telephone conversation with Applicants' representatives would be helpful to resolve any further issues and/or expedite further prosecution of the application, Applicants invite the Examiner to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

***Fee Authorization***

Applicants believe that no fees are due for the submission of this Amendment and Response other than the fee for a Request for Continued Examination under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(e). If additional fees are required, the Director is authorized to charge any fees associated with this submission to our Deposit Account No. 04-1105 under Reference 86295(308246). Any overpayment should be credited to the Deposit Account.

Dated: March 14, 2012

Respectfully submitted,

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